

R E M A R K S

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated July 28, 2004.

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. All of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Additionally, claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aardema; Eysymontt; and Penso. Further, claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aardema et al., Eysymontt or Penso in view of Nishikimi et al.

Responsive to the rejection of the claims, Applicant herein amends claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 3 and intervening claim 2. Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled. Applicant also amends claim 1 to overcome the rejection under § 112. In this regard, Applicant notes for the record that although, as the Examiner points out, each chamber is shown having only one feed line in connection therewith, such feed line includes a T connecting to feed lines in connection with two of the valves. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that it should be understood that the amended claim language reads on and includes a fluid circuit including separate feed lines connecting to a chamber for feeding fluid to the chamber and removing fluid from the chamber.

Turning to claim 1, that claim is amended as indicated above to include the recitations of allowable claim 3 and intervening claim 2, namely, wherein each said valve is a proportional electromagnetic valve, and wherein said actuating cylinder has a first detecting device for detecting a fluid pressure inside of said chambers to determine a force exerted, in use, on said output rod; electronic control means being provided to selectively control said valves as a function of a signal from said first detecting device.

For the foregoing reasons, amended claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art and allowable.

Claims 4-14 depend from amended claim 1 and add still further distinguishing limitations thereto. Accordingly, those claims, in combination with amended base claim 1, are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art.

All of the claims pending in the present application are believed to contain limitations which patentably distinguish them over the cited prior art. None of the cited prior art references disclose a hitch device for attaching farm implements to a tractor including all of the novel features of the claims of the application. Favorable action and allowance of all of the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

A one month extension of time is requested to extend the time for submitting this Amendment. The Office Action was mailed on July 28, 2004, and the initial three month period in which to submit a response ended on October 28, 2004. The one month extension of time extends the response time up to and including November 28, 2004, which is a Sunday, and thus extends to today, Monday, November 29, 2004. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$110.00 which is the charge for an extension of one month as set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(a)(2) for a large entity. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any credit or deficiency to Deposit Account No. 08-1280.

If the Examiner has any further requirements or suggestions for placing the present claims in condition for allowance, Applicant's undersigned attorney would appreciate a telephone call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

HAVERSTOCK, GARRETT & ROBERTS LLP



Stephen R. Matthews
Reg. No. 34,384
611 Olive Street, Suite 1610
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
(314) 241-4427

November 29, 2004
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